IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-13, and add new claims 14-17, as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A method for managing communication devices associated with a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communication manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, the method performed by the unified communication manager comprising:

receiving a message from the user containing at least a request to configure at least one of the communication devices;

configuring a connection for the at least one communication device based on information in the message; and

transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification indicating the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device.

2. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting to the user the notification comprises:

determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and

transmitting to the user an instant message that includes notification of the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device.

3. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein configuring a connection comprises receiving signaling information via the voice network.

4. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein configuring a connection comprises receiving information via the data network.

5. (Once Amended) A computer readable medium capable of configuring a computer to perform a method of managing communication devices associated with a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communications manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, the method performed by the unified communication manager comprising:

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receiving a message from a user containing at least a request to configure at least one of the communication devices;

configuring a connection for the at least one communication device based on information in the message; and

transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification indicating the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device.

6. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 5, wherein transmitting to the user the notification comprises:

determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and

transmitting to the user an instant message that includes notification of the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device.

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7. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 5, wherein configuring a connection comprises receiving signaling information via the voice network.

8. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 5, wherein configuring a connection comprises receiving information via the data network.

9. (Once Amended) An apparatus for managing communication devices associated with a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communication manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, the unified communication manager comprising:

means for receiving a message from a user containing at least a request to configure at least one of the communication devices;

means for configuring a connection for the at least one communication device based on information in the message; and

means for transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification indicating the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device.

10. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for transmitting to the user the notification comprises:

means for determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and

means for transmitting to the user an instant message that includes notification of the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device.

11. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for configuring a connection comprises means for receiving signaling information via the voice network.

12. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for configuring a connection comprises means for receiving information via the data network.

13. (Once Amended) A unified communication manager for managing communications of a user based on using an instant messaging service, comprising:

means for receiving a message from a data network reflecting one or more rules for establishing telephone calls to a user;

means for configuring a connection for establishing the telephone calls to the user in accordance with the rules, including forwarding calls when necessary to one or more terminals associated with the user based on stored user profile information; and

means for transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification that indicates the configuration of the connection.

--14. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the message from the user comprises receiving an instant message over the data network from the user through the instant messaging service.

15. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the message from the user comprises receiving a call over the voice network from the user.

16. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

downloading to at least one of the communications devices associated with the user code for interfacing with the at least one unified communications manager.

17. (New) A method for managing communication devices associated with a user for terminating connections over a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communication manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, said method comprising:

receiving a call from the user over the voice network at a speech processor;

identifying a request to configure at least one of the communication devices associated with the user based on information in the call;

forwarding the request to the at least one unified communication manager;

configuring a connection for the at least one communication device based on the information in the call; and

transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification that indicates the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device.--

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated January 30, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,875,242 to Glaser et al. ("Glaser") and rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,463,145 to O'Neal et al. ("O'Neal"). By this Amendment, Applicants amend the